

Department of Veterans Affairs  
**CARES Commission**  
Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services

OCTOBER 3, 2003  
WACO HEARING (VISN 17)  
WITNESS LIST

9:00 AM

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mr. Cliff Teer, Former State Commander, VFW**  
**OPENING REMARKS: Commissioner Charles Battaglia**

**PANEL #1**

- The Honorable Kay Bailey-Hutchinson, United States Senate (videotape)
- The Honorable John Cornyn, United States Senate (videotape)
- The Honorable Chet Edwards, House of Representatives, Texas
- The Honorable Kip Averitt, Texas State Senate
- The Honorable Jim Dunnam, Texas House of Representatives (*no written testimony provided*)
- The Honorable John Mabry, Texas House of Representatives (*no written testimony provided*)

**PANEL #2**

- Mr. Tom Stranova, Network Director, VISN 17
- Mr. Alan Harper, Director, North Texas Health Care System
- Mr. Dean Billik, Director, Central Texas Health Care System

**PANEL #3**

- Mr. Carey Hobbs, Chairman, Task Force to Save Waco Hospital
- Mayor Linda Ethridge, Waco, Texas
- Mr. Kent Keahey, President, Providence Hospital
- Dr. Greg Blaisdell, Chairman, Dept of Psychiatry, Providence DePaul Center
- Maggie McCarthy, Executive Director, The Bernard & Audree Rapoport Foundation
- Mr. Coke Mills, Chairman, Task Force to Save Waco Hospital
- Mrs. Enid Wade, Attorney, Task Force to Save Waco Hospital

**PANEL #4**

- Mr. Perry Dijkman, Paralyzed Veterans of America (*no written testimony provided*)
- Mr. Donald Simons, The American Legion
- Mr. Bill Mahon, Chairman, McLennan County Veterans Association (*no written testimony provided*)
- Mr. Gerald Cowan, President, Greater Dallas Veterans
- Mr. Jim Garrett, Department Service Officer, Veterans of Foreign Wars
- Mr. Dennis Nixon, Disabled American Veterans
- Mr. Charles Szakacs, Blinded Veterans of America (*no written testimony provided*)

**PANEL #5**

- Ms. Amelia Wheeler, AFGE Local 2437
- Ms. Fredna White, President, AFGE Local 1822
- Ms. Mary Gibson, Vice Chair & VISN 17 Coordinator, National Alliance for the Mentally Ill Veterans Committee

**GUBERNATORIAL STATEMENT**

- Governor Rick Perry